CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The registration of civil partnerships

Question 1  (Paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13)

Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

Yes  □
No   X
Don’t know □

Please give reasons for your answer.

Comments
It is wrong for a civil arrangements to dictate to a religious / faith group.

Question 2  (Paragraphs 2.14 to 2.19)

Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?

Yes □
No   X
Don’t know □

If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.

Comments
No. We have an entirely different legal system and it should be kept as such. We do not want to or need to follow everything that England does.

Question 3  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?

Yes □
No   X
Don’t know □
Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

I do not think that religious celebrants should be able to do this. The facility for civil partnerships is already in place, and the description “civil” should be recognised for what it is.

Question 4  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?

Yes  
No  x
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As above

Question 5  (Paragraph 2.25)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes  x
No  
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

In matters of faith and conscience it is wrong for individuals to be required / made to do something against faith and conscience. Countries that do not recognise civil rights behave like this.

Question 6  (Paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to register civil partnerships if their religious body has decided against registering civil partnerships?

Yes  x
Question 7 (Paragraphs 2.28 to 2.30)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes  x
No    
Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

No one should be “required” to register a civil partnership if it is against their conscience and faith.

Question 8 (Paragraphs 2.31 to 2.35)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?

Do you favour:

Option 1  
Option 2  
Neither   x

If you have another option, please describe it.

Comments

I think this is a poor question as it seems to presuppose that same sex marriages will occur, which brings the validity of the consultation process in to question.

Question 9 (Paragraphs 2.36 to 2.40)
Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to register civil partnerships. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

Yes  □
No   □
Don’t know  x

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

I am not familiar with current legislation
**Same sex marriage**

**Question 10** (Paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12)

Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?

Yes  [ ]
No  [x]
Don’t know  [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**

Marriage by definition is opposite sex and to change the law would be wrong and in my mind a contradiction. Civil partnerships have a role to play, other than a supposed marriage context. For instance between brother and sister who share the same house in their older age. I would not want to devalue this aspect or rule it out.

**Question 11** (Paragraph 3.13)

Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

Yes  [x]
No  [ ]
Don’t know  [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**

This is very important. To require a celebrant or body to solemnise same sex marriages would force many individuals or bodies to go against their faith and conscience. Indeed they may conceivably be forced to break the law, when they would have no wish to do so.

**Question 12** (Paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex **civil** marriage only?

Yes  [ ]
No  [x]
Don’t know  [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer
Comments
Marriage is not the correct word for same sex partnerships. partnership is already in use and adequately covers this.

Question 13  (Paragraph 3.19)
Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil?
Yes  
No  x
Don’t know  
Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
See above

Question 14  (Paragraphs 3.23 and 3.24)
Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?
Yes  x
No  
Don’t know  
Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
To force a body or individual to behave in a matter which goes against their conscience, in a matter which is subjective (as against issues on national security etc) is wrong and a developed nation should allow freedom of conscience in both directions.

Question 15  (Paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26)
Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to solemnise same sex marriages if their religious body has decided against solemnising same sex marriage?
Yes  x
No  
Don’t know  

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<tr>
<th>Question 16 (Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?</td>
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<td>Yes [x]</td>
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Please give reasons for your answer

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<td>Reasons given above</td>
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<th>Question 17 (Paragraphs 3.29 to 3.33)</th>
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<td>Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to solemnise same sex marriage against their will?</td>
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<td>Do you favour:</td>
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<td>Option 1 [ ]</td>
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<td>Option 2 [ ]</td>
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<td>Neither [x]</td>
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Please give reasons for your answer and if you have another option, please describe it.

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<td>Again, the question is loaded, assuming an outcome that same sex marriages will happen. Same sex marriages and religious freedom are not compatible.</td>
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<td>Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to solemnise same sex marriage. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure</td>
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Question 18  (Paragraph 3.41)

If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available?

Yes  x
No
Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Civil partnerships may still have a place for people who wish to be in partnership for legal reasons but have no wish to been seen as being married.

Question 20       (Paragraph 4.19)

Do you have any other comments?

Yes  x
No

We are particularly interested in your views on:

- potential implications of the proposals for transgender people (paragraph 3.42)
- possible transitional arrangements (paragraphs 3.43 and 3.44);
- recognition of Scottish same sex marriages elsewhere (paragraphs 3.45 to 3.49);
- any comments on forced marriage (paragraphs 3.51 and 3.52)
- any comments on sham marriage (paragraph 3.53)
• potential financial implications (paragraphs 4.01 to 4.08);
• potential equality implications (paragraphs 4.09 to 4.14).

Comments

Potential equality implications.
We must be careful that interests and conscience of all sides need to be protected.